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PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0362

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 21, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 21, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed herein.

Claims 1-18 and 20-24 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 11-13 and 15 stand objected to and have been rewritten in independent form as claims 20-23, respectively. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 14, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Schulz, et al.* (US 6,224,838).

Schulz discloses a scallop design for radial flow reactor internals. (See, Title) The flow distribution provided by scallop shaped conduits is non-uniform, thus causing more flow to take place at the convex surface closest to the center pipe. As a result, fluid contacts the particulate bed unevenly, thereby requiring the particulate bed to be replaced more frequently. *Schulz* does not teach, show, or suggest separate hollow conduit members each having an internal cross-sectional area defined by a pair of generally radially extending side wall portions and an inner wall portion integrally joined to each of said pair of generally radially extending side wall portions, wherein the inner wall is concave shaped, as recited in claim 1. Also, *Schulz* does not teach, show, or suggest the permeable wall of the conduit members is concave shaped, as recited in claim 18. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claims 5, 6, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schulz, et al.* (US 6,224,838) in view of *McClain* (US 4,198,002).

Claims 5, 6, 16, and 17 depend from claim 1. As discussed above, Applicant believes claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant also believes claims 5, 6, 16, and 17 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1-3, 5-10, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McClain* (US 4,198,002) in view of *Stahl* (US 4,971,771).

McClain discloses a distribution duct having a plurality of elongated angular breaks. *McClain* also does not disclose concave shaped inner walls. *Stahl* discloses a manifold means for distributing a flow of gas in a reactor. *Stahl* does not disclose concave shaped inner walls for the modules. The references, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest separate hollow conduit members each having an internal cross-sectional area defined by a pair of generally radially extending side wall portions and an inner wall portion integrally joined to each of said pair of generally radially extending side wall portions, wherein the inner wall is concave shaped, as recited in claim 1. Also, the references, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest teach, show, or suggest the permeable wall of the conduit members is concave shaped, as recited in claim 18. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

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Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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